



In This Issue

Headline News

- P1. University Acceptances for SABIS® 2018 Graduates
- P2. SABIS® Board Hosts Christmas Concert
- P2. SABIS® Adopts Solar Power Initiative
- P3. Art with Heart at *Little Stars, Big Talents* Event

Academics

- P3. New Robotics Course Received with Enthusiasm

IT

- P4. SABIS® Explores Blockchain Technology

SLO®

- P5. Focus on the SLO® Social Responsibility Department

SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA)

- P6. SAGA Reunion Events Abound in the Network

Feature School

- P7. International School of Choueifat – Umm Al Quwain

Alumni in the Spotlight

- P10. Meet a Group of Impressive Alumni from SABIS® International Charter School

Headline News


University Acceptances for SABIS® 2018 Graduates

All schools in the SABIS® Network aim to prepare students for admission to the college or university of their choice. Through the implementation of the SABIS® Educational System™, students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to become well-rounded, community-minded individuals who are prepared for college and life. The list of colleges and universities to which 2018 graduates from the network were accepted in 2018 shows the efficacy of the system in meeting this objective.

In the summer of 2018, a total of 1,899 students graduated from SABIS® schools across the network and were accepted to 547 universities in 45 countries around the world. In fact, 55% of the world's top 200 universities as identified by the [U.K. Times Educational Supplement](#) accepted SABIS® 2018 graduates. Interestingly, many of these universities also appeared on [Reuters Top 100: The World's Most Innovative Universities](#), which ranks educational institutions doing the most to advance science, invent new technologies, and power new markets and industries as demonstrated by the number of publications and successful World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) patents. SABIS® graduates were accepted to all of the top five on the Reuters list – Stanford University, MIT, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Washington.

- 1,899** Graduates in 2018
- From 27** SABIS® Schools
- Accepted in **547** Colleges & Universities in **45** Countries
- 55%** of the world's Top 200 universities accepted 2018 graduates from SABIS® Schools

STUDENT SUCCESS



"A SABIS® education gives students a solid foundation of knowledge, academic mastery, and life skills that allow them access to leading universities around the world," commented Mr. Ghassan Kansou, SABIS® VP – Academic Development. "We are pleased to see that our students are consistently accepted at the world's most innovative universities as well — a real testament to how our students are equipped with the scientific knowledge and background they need to be on the cutting-edge of technology by continually re-engineering their skills, deepening their knowledge, and ultimately reaching their full potential."

Year after year, students in SABIS® schools are accepted to many of the world's top colleges and universities. Once admitted, SABIS® graduates build on their foundation of academic and life skills and go on to distinguish themselves in a wide range of professions.

For more information about SABIS®, visit sabis.net. Click [here](#) to access the complete list of university acceptances for the network in 2018, and to stay up-to-date on the latest news in the network, follow us on [Facebook](#).

SABIS® Board Hosts Christmas Concert

On December 17, 2018, the SABIS® Board hosted the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra at the Charles Saad Performance Hall at SABIS® International School in Adma, Lebanon. Approximately 400 distinguished guests and VIPs were invited to an enchanting concert performed by the orchestra and conducted by Maestro Harout Fazlian, the principal conductor of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra.

On the night, SABIS® Vice President Victor Saad welcomed the guests with a moving speech. "If the universal message of Christmas teaches us anything, it is that the human spirit will always prevail... I hope that the concert tonight – with its special selection of music – will kindle in our hearts that inspirational message of love, hope, and compassion."

The Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, founded in 1998, aims to promote classical music across Lebanon and has performed in an array of international festivals. At the concert, they played a rich selection of music on the evening. The selection included seasonal favorites for guests to enjoy and embrace the spirit of giving.



Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra at the Charles Saad Performance Hall, SIS-Adma

SABIS® Adopts Solar Power Initiative

In addition to offering a top-quality education to students around the world, SABIS® is committed to instilling in them a lifelong love of and respect for their environment. To help drive home this respect, SABIS® models it through many environmentally friendly initiatives on SABIS® school campuses around the network. One of the most recent environmentally friendly projects in the network is an initiative to harness clean, renewable solar energy on a number of SABIS® school campuses.

"Solar energy is the cleanest and most abundant renewable energy source available," explained Mr. Nabil Rizkallah, SABIS® Engineering Department Manager. "With new technologies that can harness this energy for a variety of uses, including generating electricity, providing light, and heating water, it is a great opportunity for us to integrate these technologies into our campus designs."

The process is quite simple: solar power panels called photovoltaic (PV) cells are installed on the roof of the school and on carports. These solar panels convert energy from the sun into thermal and electrical energy that serve the school's needs throughout the year. "In the long run, investing in PV cells not only makes great financial sense, it will also help schools reduce the cost of electrical power for the grid and conserve energy," said Rizkallah.



Solar power panels installed on carports at SABIS® Costa Verde

To date, the SABIS® International School – Costa Verde in Panama has installed the panels on the roof of the school buildings and carports and began using solar energy at the end of January 2019. The International School of Choueifat – Choueifat in Lebanon and the International School of Choueifat – Lahore in Pakistan have begun installing the PV cell system in their schools and will be benefiting from this clean, renewable energy source in the very near future.

SABIS®'s initiative to harness new, clean, renewable energy stems from its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. It is also an excellent example to students of how they can help prevent climate change and develop an understanding of their role as custodians of the earth's valuable natural resources.

To learn more about SABIS®, visit our website at sabis.net.

Art with Heart at *Little Stars, Big Talents* Event

On October 20, 2018, the International School of Choueifat – Erbil, a SABIS® school in Kurdistan, held a one-of-a-kind art event called *Little Stars, Big Talents*. The event, which welcomed over 650 VIPs and distinguished guests, was the culmination of a year-long art project that sought to build awareness of how art can be used to make a difference in the community and support those in need.

The finale to *Little Stars, Big Talents* was a fashion show that featured clothing created from artwork made by ISC-Erbil students with the support of their art teacher. Throughout the last academic year, ISC-Erbil students had recreated original paintings and artwork inspired by famous artists including Piet Mondrian, Ted Harrison, and Amy Giacometti, among others. Their artwork was then digitally documented and manipulated to create beautiful and moving digital prints on clothing items that were presented during the fashion show.



Students modeling clothing featuring their own artwork during Little Stars, Big Talents fashion show

The artwork was also printed on household and gift items, including hand towels, cushions, quilts, notebooks, and mobile phone covers, that were made available for purchase in a marketplace set up at the event. All the money raised from the purchased items was then donated to different charities across Kurdistan in an effort to help different causes important to the students.



The marketplace including a range of household items featuring student artwork

The event was a resounding success! Guests and VIPs were treated like royalty starting with a tour of a gallery of the students' work, followed by ballet and live music performances by ISC-Erbil students, and finally the fashion show.

Around the world, SABIS® schools are recognized for setting students on the path to becoming responsible, caring, conscientious global citizens. The *Little Stars, Big Talents* event is one of the many ways students at ISC-Erbil have learned and witnessed the impact they can have on the community they live in.

To stay up-to-date on the latest events taking place at ISC-Erbil, follow them on [Facebook](#).

Academics

New Robotics Course Received with Enthusiasm

In the first term of the 2018-19 academic year, SABIS® launched a new Modular STEAM Robotics course for students aged 11 to 14. The new, action-packed course combines STEAM concepts and teamwork, allowing students to learn real-life skills while having real-kid fun.

"Our objective is to equip students at an early age with the skills they need to succeed in an increasingly technology-based marketplace," explained Mr. Roy Bistany, Academic Operations Manager at SABIS®. *"The new robotics course allows students to combine computational thinking and 21st century skills in a robotics-engineering context. It also teaches them to program intelligent robotics systems and allows them to develop a foundation of programming and coding."*

Throughout the course, students spend time disassembling and reassembling simple and complex robots to better understand the engineering and mechanics of the different robotics systems. By the end of the course, students are able to build intelligent and active robotics systems as well as design new robotic models to complete complex missions.



SIS-Adma student and his robot!

The curriculum consists of three sequential modules that cover fundamental chapters including basic movement, sensors, program flow, direct control, engineering design and mechanics, and much more. Each module covers several chapters that are broken into units that teach key robotics and programming concepts that are also reinforced with semi-open-ended challenges. These challenges require students to use the skills they have just learned to solve a relevant portion of the final unit challenge. Each unit challenge is based on the original robot's problem that the students must solve as an exercise and a demonstration of their mastery of the concepts.

This term, students were already successful in building and programming their first robot! Students used various types of intelligent sensors including a gyroscope sensor, ultrasound sensor, and bumper sensor, among others, to write simple and complex programming codes for the student-built robot to autonomously accomplish the allocated missions. The students' robots were successful on several missions including moving out of a maze without touching any walls, collecting various colored cubes and delivering them to the allocated locations, and more - all without any manual intervention from the students.

The new course was received with great enthusiasm from robotics enthusiasts at SABIS® schools in Lebanon!

“This course taught us a lot of skills such as building and programming a robot which will serve us in our future careers especially when studying engineering. I think this course will prepare us for the 21st century as the world is becoming more dependent on machines.”

– Islam Rachid, Grade 6, ISC-Koura

“The robotics course is exciting and amazing. I had so much fun. The course will teach you how to work as a team, and you can make lots of friends.”

– Trystan Van den Haute, Grade 7, ISC-Koura

“Why do I like robotics? First of all, it is all about communication with your team. When I first joined the course, I didn't realize I would have friends from different grades. Robotics was a great experience because I got to think outside the box. I am sure robotics will help me get into the best universities.”

– Michel Issa, Grade 7, SIS-Adma

With the success of the course, which was piloted during the SIS-Adma summer school and launched at three SABIS® schools in Lebanon — The International School of Choueifat – Choueifat, The International School of Choueifat – Koura, and SABIS® International School – Adma — a number of SABIS® schools in the Gulf, Kurdistan, and Egypt will very soon be offering this course.

Watch this space for future developments in this area!



SABIS® ROBOTICS
A Modular STEAM Course

Coming Soon
to your SABIS® School!

IT

SABIS® Explores Blockchain Technology

As a leader in the education industry, SABIS® continuously seeks new opportunities and explores new horizons that allows the organization and schools in the network to benefit from latest technologies. SABIS®'s recent participation in the ConsenSys Lebanon Blockchain Developer Boot Camp and performance during the “hackathon” is very exciting and holds great promise for the future.

Blockchain is a data structure that functions by verifying and handling data between computer systems, ensuring that nothing is altered or changed during a transfer. It is used to maintain and prove the integrity of shared data. The data is secured in a chain of blocks or a series of data records connected to the one before, so essentially the newest piece of information in the chain contains the history of the entire chain. Blockchain technology provides a decentralized database and, using cryptography, a great level of transparency, traceability, and security. Blockchain data is also resistant to tampering as no centralized version of this information exists for a hacker to corrupt.

From October 17 to 21, 2018, SABIS® web developers took part in a blockchain developer boot camp that allowed them to explore this IT innovation. The boot camp took place in Beirut, Lebanon, and was one of the first blockchain boot camps to be held in the region. Throughout the first three days of the event, participants received in-depth training on the fundamentals of blockchain development. The training was followed by a two-day hackathon, during which participants were required to conceptualize a blockchain-based solution to a certain challenge and then present it to a panel of judges.

The SABIS® team was able to successfully present a platform in which student certificates and academic transcripts were securely stored, updated, authenticated, verified, and shared using the blockchain technology. Applying the right skills and dedication, the team's efforts were crowned with success, earning them second place in the competition.

Commenting on their experience at the boot camp, the web development team from SABIS® said:

“Attending the boot camp was of great value. It added to our knowledge of blockchain systems and it inspired us to identify the ways we could use this system at SABIS®.” – Nazir Masaad, Senior Web Developer.

“Blockchain technology can easily be adapted to future SABIS® projects starting with the Digital Diploma, the SAGA university app, student apps, and it can also be expanded to benefit the organization on a business level.” – Alain Haddad, Web Development Team Leader at SABIS®.

SABIS®'s interest in this event stems from the importance of blockchain, which promises to become the next mainstream technology in both the public and private sectors. Blockchain offers limitless possibilities in finance and other industries. In education, it has the potential to optimize data automation and control record authentication and distribution by enhancing the security, transparency, and incorruptibility of data systems.

To stay up-to-date on the latest SABIS® news, keep watching this space.

Focus on the SLO® Social Responsibility Department

As one of the pillars of the SABIS® Educational System™, the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) plays an important role in educating and developing well-rounded individuals and future leaders. Through eight departments, the SLO® helps students develop personally and become active community members who possess strong leadership skills, ethics, and moral values.

The SLO® Social Responsibility Department is one of the departments that helps students develop these skills and qualities. The goal of the SLO® Social Responsibility Department is to instill and develop students' "social responsibility," in other words their awareness that all individuals have a responsibility to give back to their community and make the world a better place. Read on to learn about some of the amazing initiatives that SABIS® students have undertaken!



SLO® Social Responsibility prefects at Collegiate Charter School of Lowell pose for a picture

With poverty and hunger prevalent in many societies around the world, it should come as no surprise that a number of SABIS® schools direct their social responsibility efforts at alleviating the suffering caused by hunger. The SLO® at the International School of Choueifat – Koura in Lebanon organized a food drive on October 16, 2018, in which parents, students, and friends gathered over 700 kg (1500+ lbs.) of food items to be distributed to underprivileged families in North Lebanon. The SLO® Social Responsibility Department at the International School on the Rhine (ISR), a SABIS® licensed school in Germany, organized a food drive for their local food bank, with SLO® prefects collecting food items from students and parents and working together to load the food bank's truck with several boxes of goods. In the U.S., the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell's (Collegiate) SLO® Social Responsibility Department collected around 656 lbs. (297 kg) of food items in November and donated them to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank.



ISR SLO® prefects load food bank truck with items they collected from their food drive

A number of SABIS® schools decided to tackle a different aspect of social responsibility and focused their efforts on contributing to environmental issues in their communities. In Lebanon, three SABIS® schools worked together in September and organized a day to clean up the beachfront in the area of Kaslik. Students helped pick up trash and sort it into various recyclable materials. All this was done using only environmentally friendly and recyclable material such as cloth bags and non-latex gloves. In October, Collegiate in the U.S. also carried out a clean-up day in which prefects cleaned up trash and debris around the school and on campus.



SLO® prefects from SABIS® schools in Lebanon clean up a local beach

Contributing to environmental issues in their communities took a different direction on the African continent, where students at SABIS® International School – Runda in Kenya acquired a better understanding of the importance of ecological balance. Students visited the David Sheldrick Wildlife Reserve and heard stories of the elephants that had been rescued from the brutality of poachers and human-wildlife conflict. After hearing the stories, students were deeply moved and had a better understanding of their role in preserving their country's wildlife and finding a human-wildlife balance.



SABIS® Runda students learning about their role in preserving their country's wildlife

Social responsibility also fueled a number of other initiatives across the network, where students looked for ways to give back to children less fortunate than themselves. At SABIS® International School – Adma in Lebanon, SLO® prefects joined the Lebanese Red Cross for their annual holiday celebration of "One Child, One Gift" in which they collected and helped distribute toys to orphaned children at Christmas. At Collegiate in the U.S., the SLO® Social Responsibility Department organized a "Coats for Kids" campaign, where they collected used coats and donated them to underprivileged children in the area. At the International School of Choueifat – Amman in Jordan, students raised USD 210,000 for the Al Hussein Society for Social Care and the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF), which helps provide treatment for children with cancer. In Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz International Schools – Al Sulaimaniah organized a Willy Wonka event to raise money in support of the Sanad Organization Center for children with cancer.



SLO® prefects from Collegiate promote their latest social responsibility efforts in their school to drive donations

A number of schools focused on helping another vulnerable group in their communities: the elderly. At the Leila C. Saad School El-Metn in Lebanon, the SLO® Social Responsibility Department organized a community service visit to “Helmona,” an elderly home in Bzebdine. The prefects warmly greeted each elder with big smiles and distributed homemade sweets they had prepared. In Kurdistan, the International School of Choueifat – Sulaimani raised funds for the Suleimaniah Elderly Care Center. The funds were used to buy electrical heaters, carpets, TVs, and clothing for the elderly.

Through the SABIS Student Life Organization® Social Responsibility Department, students in SABIS® schools learn the importance of contributing to and making a difference in their communities. By developing a sense of social responsibility, students are able to make valuable contributions to helping make the world a better place. To learn more about SLO®, visit sabis.net.

SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA)

SAGA Reunion Events Abound in the Network

The SABIS® Global Alumni Association (SAGA) offers graduates a platform to maintain ties with their respective schools and connect with other graduates in the network. One of the many ways SAGA achieves this goal is by encouraging alumni to organize events. Through these events, the alumni build new friendships, have the opportunity to reminisce about the old times, and generally have a great time together.

This year, a number of SAGA events took place all over the world. On December 7, 2018, 150 alumni from the International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi in the U.A.E met at the InterContinental Hotel Abu Dhabi for a fun night of food and entertainment. The night began with a video address by SABIS® President Carl Bistany and was followed with dinner and dancing.

Addressing the alumni, Bistany said: “You are all part of the SABIS® Global Alumni association, which includes thousands of individuals. This means that no matter where your life, career, or family take you – locally or internationally – there will very likely be other SABIS® alumni nearby who you can identify with, depend on, and grow with.”

In Amman, Jordan, 140 alumni enjoyed a dinner on December 28, 2018, at their first official alumni reunion. The joyous

occasion began with a speech by SABIS® Vice President Victor Saad and continued with different musical performances by ISC-Amman students. The alumni remembered their days at school while viewing a slideshow and playing memory games together. Their first reunion event was an unforgettable experience for all who attended.



ISC-Amman alumni at their first official alumni reunion

In Lebanon, alumni from three SABIS® schools, the International School of Choueifat – Koura, SABIS® International School – Adma, and the International School of Choueifat – Choueifat, along with SABIS® board members and VIP guests, enjoyed their first-ever joint gala dinner, which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beirut on December 27, 2018. The 450 alumni in attendance listened to SABIS® Vice President Victor Saad who gave a speech underscoring the importance of maintaining strong ties: “You have truly come a long way in your lives and we are privileged that part of your journey started with SABIS®. In an ever-changing environment, you are at the forefront of shaping the future and we feel certain that you will make a real difference.”



Alumni from SABIS® schools in Lebanon dancing the night away at their first-ever joint gala dinner

In Muscat, Oman, approximately 60 alumni gathered at the Homruz Hotel on December 20, 2018, to share experiences and strengthen ties with each other. “The experiences I had at ISC-Muscat were an integral part of my childhood. I appreciate the high standards at the school, which equips its graduates with the right skills, preparing them to complete their studies and excel in their professional life. I am proud to have graduated from this school,” commented alumnus Ayoub Al-Rawahi.

In the U.S., the SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) in Springfield, Massachusetts, organized an event in which 40 alumni were invited to a friendly game of basketball on

December 30, 2018. Alumni re-lived their school memories while playing on the same court they played in high school. Lots of laughter and cheers could be heard as family and friends looked on. *“The alumni basketball tournament was very successful. We had a total of seven teams that came out to play. Families and friends reunited and experienced the good SABIS® vibe that we’ve always had and cherished,”* said SICS alumna Alexis Chappell.



SICS alumni organize an alumni basketball tournament

SAGA is constantly working to give SABIS® alumni opportunities to socialize and build new friendships. The network’s alumni can enjoy the social connections available through the many activities and events, and they can also benefit from SAGA’s many other available services.

If you would like to find out more about alumni events in your region, follow SAGA on [Facebook](#). If you are a graduate of a SABIS® Network school, visit saga.sabis.net to become a member of SAGA.

Feature School

International School of Choueifat – Umm Al Quwain



International School of Choueifat – Umm Al Quwain campus

The International School of Choueifat – Umm Al Quwain (ISC-UAQ) is a SABIS® school located in Umm Al Quwain, one of seven emirates that comprise the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E). From the time it first opened in 1993 and up until the 2017-18 academic year, ISC-UAQ only catered to students in Kindergarten through Grade 6, after which students moved on to other schools in Umm Al Quwain or in the neighboring

emirate of Sharjah. But as Umm Al Quwain grew and its population flourished, so did the need for a full K-12 SABIS® school in the immediate community. So, at the onset of the 2018-19 academic year, ISC-UAQ responded to this need, adding Grade 7, and it will continue to add an additional grade level each year allowing students to remain in their school until graduation day at the end of Grade 12.

“I’m so proud to be a student at International School of Choueifat – UAQ. I believe that a SABIS® education is very effective. I am really happy that I will continue in ISC-UAQ until graduation because I’ll receive a firm base of education and will be well prepared to face the challenging future.”

– Aisha Humeid Al-Ali, Grade 5

“I like being a student at the International School of Choueifat – UAQ, where I grow in a safe environment. I am provided with the best education ever as well as the opportunity to showcase my talents. I am eager to graduate from my school, where character is shaped properly for my future.”

– Aya Khaled, Grade 7

“Studying at ISC-UAQ is great. We are well-educated and prepared to face the world in the future with strong personality. I like my school because it is amazing.”

– Rashed Maktoum Al Mualla, Grade 6

New Campus

The initial decision to expand ISC-UAQ into a full K-12 school led to a new reality. The ageing campus that had served them since 1993 could no longer accommodate the school’s growth plans. So, in September 2018, ISC-UAQ relocated to its new, purpose-built campus.



New and spacious entrance welcoming students every day

The new state-of-the-art facilities allow students the opportunity to discover new interests and hobbies. The new campus boasts spacious classrooms, science and computer laboratories, and a dedicated SABIS® Integrated Testing and Learning® (ITL®) Hall, where students take computerized exams and receive real-time results. It will also house a theater, cafeteria, and library, all

of which are ideal spaces for learning and interacting with others. Additionally, the new campus will offer extensive sports facilities, which are currently in the final stages of construction. A semi-Olympic swimming pool, an indoor basketball/tennis court, and an Olympic-sized soccer field surrounded by a running track will soon provide students ample space to play the sports they love.

The needs of the youngest students at ISC-UAQ have also been catered to with an independent Kindergarten section that ensures a safe and healthy environment for them to discover the world around them. Students aged 3 to 5 now enjoy their very own indoor swimming pool, multipurpose indoor court, play areas, and a special car track.

"I have two kids at ISC-UAQ. We love the new campus! It is well-designed and has generous outdoor areas. Our aim is to have our children graduate from SABIS®. That opens the door for their future based on an excellent academic background."

– Shereen Nawara, Parent

"Our kids are lucky to start their new academic year in a good environment and facilities that will help them to perform as expected from them."

– Hanadi Al-Kashef, Parent

"I am a proud mother of two students at Choueifat Umm Al Quwain. Choueifat schools provide a unique learning experience for the students by having a strong academic system that helps the students improve their critical thinking skills as well as build a solid knowledge base so that they are able to conquer the world in future!"

– Dr. Rabab Al Sayed, mother of 2 ISC-UAQ students

Student Body

At ISC-UAQ, approximately 70% the student body is of local, Emirati origin. The remaining 30% hails from 31 countries including Germany, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Romania, Russia, Seychelles, and Turkmenistan, to name just a few. "Despite being predominantly local, our student body is growing, not only in numbers, but in the multitude of nationalities side-by-side with the community we serve," commented School Director Mr. Mohammad Jubran. "It never ceases to amaze me how ISC-UAQ succeeds in bringing individuals with so many cultural differences together into one cohesive, tolerant, and unique school community."

In celebration of the origins of their student body and their host country, it is no surprise that the U.A.E. National Day is a big event at ISC-UAQ! The entire school community participated in a day packed with fun activities associated with the U.A.E.'s heritage and culture including a military parade, a falcon show, traditional dances, and art. Even the youngest Kindergarten students enjoyed numerous, age appropriate activities such as face painting, jumping castles, and eating popcorn and traditional sweets!



The entire ISC-UAQ community celebrates UAE's 47th anniversary

Student Life

ISC-UAQ students, despite their relatively young age, lead an active and engaging student life and participate in every aspect of their community, helping their fellow students excel academically, creating a welcoming environment, organizing fun activities, and raising awareness about important issues related to health.

On an academic level, ISC-UAQ students learn to take an active role in their education and the education of others. This is particularly apparent in SLO® Peer Tutoring and Shadow Teaching® programs. Students who master particular subjects regularly volunteer as peer tutors or Shadow Teachers®, which allow them the opportunity to teach their fellow classmates either on a one-to-one basis, as in the case of peer tutoring, or by teaching an entire class as a Shadow Teacher®.



Peer tutoring in action at ISC-UAQ

The school also organizes a number of academic-related activities. These have included themed weeks and special event days throughout the school year. A couple of examples of themed weeks include the Arabic and English Reading Week, where students from grades 6 and 7 took the time to read to younger students. Teachers also gathered their students in break times to read books in English, Arabic, and French. Another successful event was Science Week, where students learned more about the earth, planets, and global warming. Together with their science teacher, they performed experiments and learned to appreciate the magic world of natural science. Last, but not least, a First Aid Awareness Week allowed the students to learn about basic first aid skills from a medical professional who visited the campus.

Beyond academics, SLO® prefects, with the strong support of teachers and staff, successfully organize a number of fun

activities and events throughout the school year. So far, they have held a teddy bear picnic; Character Day, where students came to school dressed as their favorite characters; music shows; sports days; and a recycling fashion show, where students in grades 4-7 showcased their hand-made, recycled dresses, shoes, hats, tops, pants, and even handbags!



ISC-UAQ students bring their teddy bears along for teddy bear picnic

In addition to academic and event-focused activities, the SLO® prefects are dedicated to creating a school environment that is welcoming, happy, and positive. To this end, the SLO® planned and celebrated Happiness Week, Mother’s Day, Appreciation Day, and Crazy Hat Day.



Students wearing some pretty cool hats on crazy hat day

“The SLO® taught me to have confidence. I feel like it’s my home and I can be me.”

– Salem Al Ali, Grade 7

“To be part of the SLO® is fun and it makes me happy to be active. SLO® has changed my life. It makes me a better person and they teach me to care for others.”

– Alya Al Shamsi, Grade 7

“I like SLO®. It is fun and all students feel included.”

– Rama Hasan, Grade 5

ISC-UAQ also offers students a rich mix of extracurricular activities including ballet, football, and gymnastics. This academic year, five students in the ISC-UAQ Gymnastics Club participated in the *First Emarat National Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship* held in Dubai in November 2018. The students brought home two gold medals, two trophies, and three silver medals. Two Special Awards were also presented to Farah Subhi and Nour Ahmed. What an outstanding achievement!



ISC-UAQ student gymnasts at the 1st Emarat National Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship

And if all of this were not already enough, there are various SLO® clubs that are set-up and run by SLO® prefects with the support of their teachers. These clubs include art, football, music, chess, coding, and fishing. Check out this photo of a young student teaching his friends how to fish in the SLO® Fishing Club.



SLO® Fishing Club at ISC-UAQ

With a brand new campus and a decision to grow into a full K-12 school, the ISC-UAQ community has a lot to be excited about! Thanks to the top-quality education, diverse student body, and wide range of extracurricular activities and clubs, it is no surprise that parents and students are delighted that they can remain at ISC-UAQ up through graduation. We wish the school continued success and look forward to meeting the first graduating class of ISC-UAQ!

To learn more about ISC-UAQ, visit their website iscummalquwain.sabis.net or follow them on [Facebook](#).

Alumni in the Spotlight

Meet a Group of Impressive Alumni from SABIS® International Charter School

SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) is a SABIS® public charter school located in Springfield, Massachusetts, in the United States. The school, which opened in 1995, was the first public charter school managed and operated by SABIS® in the U.S. and has been changing students' lives from the moment it opened. Recently, a feature series on a number of successful SICS alumni ran in a local Springfield publication, *The Republican*, and we couldn't miss the opportunity to share a part of their stories with our readers.



*Amari Q. Brown,
Class of 2014*

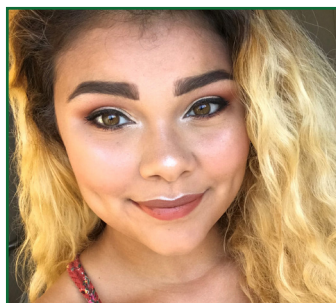
Amari Q. Brown joined SICS as a 7th grader and graduated in 2014. After graduation, he was accepted to Morehouse College, a historically black college in Atlanta, Georgia, attended by Martin Luther King Jr. and filmmaker Spike Lee, among others, where he pursued a degree in economics. "Thanks to the rigorous, advanced classwork at SABIS®, I was able to hit the ground running when I entered college and was

ready to compete against some of the brightest kids in the world at Morehouse," he commented. Today, Amari is a management consultant analyst at Accenture in North Carolina.



*Andres Gomez,
Class of 2003*

As Director of Restaurants for MGM in Springfield, Massachusetts, Andres Gomez is living his dream. His experience in the SABIS Student Life Organization® at SICS sparked his interest in business, which he studied at University of Massachusetts Amherst and which he uses today in his job. He explains: "SABIS® was a big part of my life. The school guided me and helped make me who I am today – a go-getter who is capable of working with others and getting things done."



*Alaya Ayala,
Class of 2017*

"If it weren't for SABIS®, I wouldn't be going to an Ivy League School," commented SICS alumna Alaya Ayala. Currently a sophomore on full scholarship at Harvard University, Alaya is certain that the opportunity to travel to Greece for the SLO® Training Conference was a defining moment in her life. "It wasn't until attending SICS that I really understood what it meant to be a leader, and I was given the opportunity to develop

those skills through the SABIS Student Life Organization®," she commented.



*Emily Morrow,
Class of 2007*

Emily Morrow holds a master's degree in legal studies from the American Military Academy. As a member of the Coast Guard in Seattle, Washington, she is involved in emergency management, working with everything from oil spills to hurricane disasters and sinking vessels. "If it weren't for SABIS®, I wouldn't have had the educational foundation and leadership skills to make it through the Coast Guard Academy and be where I am

today. It opened doors I never knew were available, and it can do that for other students as well," says Emily.



*Joseph McDonald,
Class of 2014*

Joseph McDonald is now majoring in mechanical engineering at University of Massachusetts – Lowell on a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship – one of 55 students in his graduating class of 105 to receive the scholarship. Joseph discovered his interest in robotics while at SICS, which helped inform his course of study. "I don't think I would be so adaptable if it weren't for SABIS®," said Joseph. He learned to be

adaptable over the 13 years he was enrolled at SABIS®, starting as a Kindergartener and graduating in 2014.



*Stephanie Morin,
Class of 2011*

Stephanie Morin wants to dedicate her life to changing the world. Stephanie is now pursuing a doctorate degree at the University of Massachusetts and is a biomedical researcher investigating breast cancer. "There was always an emphasis on community and helping others while I was a student at SABIS®," says Stephanie. That sense of giving back to the community stayed with her after graduation and continues to drive her search for ways to

ensure a longer and healthier life for all.



*Danielle Lessard,
Class of 2012*

Danielle Lessard is determined to help people around her. Danielle joined SICS in Kindergarten and graduated in 2012. After graduating, she went on to graduate from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in visual and environmental studies. Over the years, Danielle has helped support fellow SICS graduates' applications to Harvard, and in her job in HR Talent Management at

MassMutual in Springfield, MA, she oversees a student internship program. "Now I get to help high school students, some from SICS, to grow as others gave me the opportunity to do along the way," says Danielle.



Shadae Thomas Harris,
Class of 2001

For Shadae Thomas Harris, going to SABIS® International Charter School was “the experience of a lifetime.” After graduating from SABIS® in 2001 and earning her master’s degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Shadae fulfilled her dream of becoming a teacher, working in the Boston Public Schools as a fourth grade teacher. With that experience under her belt, she went on to become

the principal of Balliet Elementary School in Springfield, a job that gave her the opportunity to give back to her community. “I always knew that I wanted to return to Springfield to serve as a mentor for not only students of color, but for all students,” says Shadae. Since earning her doctorate in Educational Leadership in May 2018 from Harvard, Shadae has taken her leadership skills to the next level as Assistant Superintendent of Family and Community Engagement in the Richmond (VA) Public Schools.



Nabori Santiago,
Class of 2002

“I wouldn’t be where I am today, and I definitely wouldn’t have had the confidence to get through the high stress college environment found at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology if it weren’t for SABIS®,” says the aerospace engineering graduate and SICS alumnus Nabori Santiago. Born to Puerto Rican parents who wanted the best possible education for their son, Nabori says he is also thankful for the encouraging environment at

SICS. He is currently living in Cambridge, England, with his wife and two children and is contributing to his new community while working as a software engineer for Siemens.



Xiomara Alban,
Class of 2006

Xiomara Alban graduated from SICS and earned her college degree from the University of New Hampshire Durham. “I was very active as a student leader at college after learning how to lead while at SABIS®. At UNH, I founded the first multicultural and only sorority on campus,” she says proudly, noting her parents emigrated to the U.S. from Ecuador. Today, Xiomara is Associate Director of Admissions at Elms College, where she says she is living the

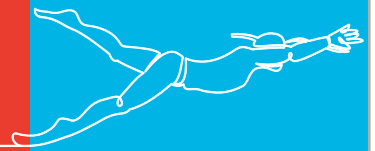
mission of providing access to a quality education for everyone.

We would like to salute all these graduates of the SABIS® International Charter School, as well all the other SABIS® graduates who have gone on to achieve personal and professional success. If you would like to read more stories about SABIS® alumni from across the network, [click here](#).



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